

Message Text

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44

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 VO-03 INSE-00

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 201437Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1445

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, LE, IZ

SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN BEIRUT

REF: (A) GENEVA 6846

(B) BEIRUT A-211

(C) BEIRUT A-218

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES GENEVA'S COMMENTS AND SUPPORT. WE WOULD OF COURSE, WELCOME ANY INCREASE IN 203(A)7 VISA NUMBER ALLOCATION. QUESTION REMAINS IN OUR MIND, HOWEVER, WHETHER IT IS REALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT INCREASES CAN BEGIN COPE WITH OUR PROBELM. VOLAGS HERE NOTE CONTINUING INCREASED FLOW USSR ARMENIANS TO BEIRUT. WE HYPOTHESIZE THIS RESULTS FROM MORE LENIENT SOVEIT EMIGRATION POLICY AND ASSUME OTHER 203(A)7 PROCESSING CENTERS EXPERIENCING SIMILAR INCREASES. GIVEN FINITE NUMBER 303(A)7 NUMBER AVAILABLE, WE ASSUME IT WILL BE MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT SHIT NUMBER TO BEIRUT PROGRAM. THUS, WE APPEAL FOR REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND PREPARATION FACE CONSEQUENCES OUTLINED REF B.

2. IF INS IS ABLE ASSIGN ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO PROCESS ANY INCREASED FLOW VISA NUMBERS, WE BELIEVE IT MORE EFFICIENT TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL STAFF TO EXISTING INS OFFICE AT ATHENS. IF SECOND INS OFFICER
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ASSIGNED TO ATHENS, ONE OF TWO OFFICERS WOULD BE

ABLE VISIT BEIRUT, AND OTHER POSTS IN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, WHENEVER REQUIRED WITHOUT LEAVING HIS OWN OFFICE UNATTENDED AS IS NOW THE CASE. WE BELIEVE THAT OPENING OFFICE IN BEIRUT WOULD REQUIRE ASSIGNMENT INS CLERICAL PERSONNEL INEFFICIENTLY DUPLICATING ATHENS STAFF. FURTHERMORE, IF INS DID DECIDE PROPOSE OPENING OFFICE HERE, EMBASSY MUST FIRST DETERMINE WHETHER OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE IN NEW EMBASSY BUILDING, EXAMINE OVERALL IMPACT ON EMBASSY STAFF SIZE, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT REQUIRED, ETC.

3. EMBASSY CANNOT REPEAT NOT AGREE WITH PROPOSAL THAT WE SUGGEST GOL "OFFICIALLY REQUEST ASSISTANCE" FROM UNHCR. ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL LEBANESE OFFICIALS OFTEN HELPFUL IN ASSISTING IRAQI REFUGEES, GOL ITSELF HAS NEVER TAKEN OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF THE PROBLEM. GOL COULD NOT OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE FACT THAT REFUGEES FROM FRIENDLY ARAB STATE EXIST. THUS, IF GOL FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEM, OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICALLY, IT MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED DEPORT REFUGEES BACK TO IRAQ OR, AT LEAST, PREVENT ADDITIONAL REFUGEES FROM ENTERING LEBANON. FOR THESE REASONS, EMBASSY UNWILLING SUGGEST SUCH A "SOLUTION" TO GOL.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE KURDISH REFUGEE PROBLEM IS ANALOGOUS. IRAQ AND IRAN ARE DE FACTO BELLIGERENTS, NOT "BROTHERLY ARAB STATES".

5. EMBASSY REMAINS IN FREQUENT COMMUNICATION WITH UNHCR/BEIRUT REGARDING IRAQI REFUGEE PROBLEM. WE WILL AGAIN DISCUSS SITUATION WITH THAT OFFICE AND SEEK MEANS OBTAIN ADDITIONAL UNHCR ASSISTANCE WITHOUT INVOLVING GOL OFFICIALLY.

GODLEY

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